













## BY TELEGRAPH.

['CHINA MAIL'S' EXCLUSIVE SERVICE.]  
SUPPLIED BY REUTER, VIA BOMBAY.  
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## THE BRITISH ARMY.

## DEFICIENCY IN 'COLONIAL DRAFTS.'

**Discussion in Parliament.**  
LONDON, June 28.  
In the House of Commons yesterday Mr E. W. Beckett, M.P. for Whithy Division of Yorkshire, moved the adjournment of the House to consider the alarming deficiency in the drafts for South Africa and India, and also to inquire into the delay on the question of Army Reform.

[REUTER'S SERVICE.]

## THE TIBET EXPEDITION.

LONDON, June 28.  
Col. Macdonald, with reinforcements, has reached Gyantse after a stiff fight at the Nani Monastery in which the British casualties amounted to 5 killed and wounded.

## THE JAPANESE ADVANCE.

**Motifentling Pass Taken.**  
A despatch from General Kuropatkin says that the Japanese on the 26th instant occupied Motifentling, Teling and Fanching, engaging the retreating Russians.

## THE KING IN GERMANY.

The King has visited Hamburg where he was received by the Burgomaster and Senators and enthusiastically welcomed by crowds.  
At the Banquet at Kiel yesterday evening their Majesties' toast referred exclusively to yachting; 'politics being unmentioned.'

**To a Correspondent.**  
We regret that, under the circumstances, we think it is better not to raise the points contained in the letter of our correspondent 'A German.' The publication of his letter would not, we believe, tend to the benefit of any one concerned for the present.

**Chinese on Strike.**  
A Chinese silversmith named Leung Lee was fined \$25 at the Magistrate's court for having assaulted a fellow workman. It was shown that the defendant had, until recently, been employed at a silversmith's shop in Queen's Road, and on about the 20th instant he and a number of others went out on strike. Their demands were refused and some new men were obtained to fill the positions they had vacated. This appears to have enraged the strikers, for as the complainant, one of the new men, was walking along Queen's Road on the evening of the 22nd he was struck by the defendant and another man. They were both summoned but only the defendant appeared at the Court. A warrant has been issued for the arrest of his companion.

## New Chinese Church for Singapore.

On June 21, His Excellency the Governor Sir John Anderson, K.C.M.G., laid his first foundation stone in the Colony, and those who seek for signs in every day occurrences will note that this first stone was to commemorate the commencement of the erection of a Church for Christian Chinese, says the *Singapore Free Press*. The site of the Church is the corner of Tanjong Pagar and North roads, and the plans of the building, which it is hoped will be finished within five months, show a three storied erection fronting on to Tanjong Pagar, the entrances, three in number, being up a side path. The building will be in the Early English style, and the front will have a handsome window with sixteen arch lights running two stories, deeply set back. The utmost use will be made of space and the Church will be three stories high. On the ground floor will be the Church itself, suitably arranged so as to seat between 120 and 130. At the end of the building will come the vestry and the staircase leading on to the first floor which will make a commodious lecture hall. Above this again are to be the pastor's sitting room and offices. Though not fanciful in design, the building will present a pleasing appearance, the material of construction being pointed red brick with cement dressing and ornaments, whilst the roof is of French tiles. The roof of the lecture room will be of open timber construction, framed in solid hard wood. First class materials are being put into the work, and it is expected the total cost will be about \$50,000. The inscription on the foundation stone reads as follows:—Presbyterian Mission. This stone was laid on the 21st of June, 1904, by Sir John Anderson, K.C.M.G., Governor of the Straits Settlements. Swan and MacLaren architects. Ng Bee Chan builder.

**STEARN'S WINE**, for convalescents, from any severe illness. Its great value is at once seen.

## LOCAL AND GENERAL.

## Departure of the French Fleet.

The French cruiser *Chateau Renard*, the destroyers *Jaqueline* and *Monique*, left yesterday for Swatow, while the cruiser *Pascal* and the gunboat *Decide* left for Shanghai.

## Expenditure on Tibet.

Mr Brodick has estimated the expenditure of the Tibet expedition up to 31st March at £309,500.  
The expenditure since has been £5,000 per month.

## Population of the Straits.

The population according to the latest report of the Registrar of Births and Deaths of Singapore is 240,833; Penang 130,121; Province Wellesley 117,020; Dindings 4,236; Malacca 95,276. The nationalities in Singapore are Europeans 3,965; Eurasians 4,243; Chinese 175,345; Malays 30,100; Indians 18,252; other 2,924.

## The Broughs.

The popular Brough Company opened a season in Johannesburg on May 16th with 'The Marriage of Kitty.' According to Johannesburg papers they met with an exceedingly warm reception, whilst their success was as good as of yore. Mrs Brough, as the Perth widow, gave what is described as a clever portraiture and was awarded with many floral gifts. Mr Brough was in the role of the husband and was equally good.

## Russian Red Cross Scandal.

A Vienna telegram of May 13 in the Indo-China papers exposes grave scandals in Russia in connection with the administration of Red Cross Society funds. It says:—General Schirndorff, favourite of the Tsarina (Dowager) Maria Fedorovna (Princess Dagmar of Denmark) has appropriated a million roubles from the Russian Red Cross fund, and has lost them in speculation on the Bourse. To avoid a scandal, the Tsarina has paid up the above sum. At Moscow also Prince Galitzin and Count Lensky refused to adjust the accounts of the Moscow section of the Red Cross. They have only expended 2,000 roubles.

## The Kaiser and German Opera.

Signor Leoncavallo, the well-known Italian composer, was commissioned in February, 1904, by Count Hockberg, the Director of the Berlin Court Theatre, on behalf of the Emperor William, to write a new opera. Having finished his task, Signor Leoncavallo presented the opera to his Majesty, who afterwards invited him to lunch. The Emperor expressed his great satisfaction at the completion of the work, and paid it a warm tribute to the Maestro. The score is bound in brown stamped leather, mounted in silver. The Royal Arms in gold surmount a beautiful ivory representation of Roland, the Guardian Knight of Berlin. The Emperor, on seeing it, remarked, 'This is really our Roland.'

## A Mistake and its Ending.

The *London Express* tells of an amusing comedy of errors. The scene was a London parish and the period recent. The vicar was sitting in his study one morning, when in burst the verger in a great state of excitement. 'Mr—[mentioning the curate's name] wants you at once, Sir,' he exclaimed. 'He has married two couples and married the two men to the wrong women, and he does not know what to do! 'Have they signed the register?' inquired the clergyman. 'No,' was the verger's response. 'Then they can be married again,' said the vicar. 'Tell me—I will be at the church in a minute or two to perform the ceremony.' In due course the incumbent made his way to the church and found the parties gathered at the entrance. Before he could say anything one of the bridegrooms—a policeman—approached and said: 'We have been talking it over, Sir, and we have made up our minds to remain as we are.' And they did so.

## Lady Blake 'At Home' in Ceylon.

Recently Lady Blake was 'At Home' at the Residence, Badulla, Ceylon, and the function was one of the brightest and prettiest seen in the locality for a long time, says *The Times of Ceylon*. The smooth lawns of the Residence crowded with a gay throng of ladies and gentlemen, the gorgeous uniforms of the Rattanakosin, and the cosmopolitan gathering representing almost every class and costume in the Island, produced a very animated scene. The attraction of a troupe of devil-dancers proved most fascinating. Their Excellencies were evidently interested in the startling spectacle, and their attention and interest encouraged the dancers to put forth marvellous efforts. A couple of elephants saluted, bowed and went through other evolutions adding to the attractions of the afternoon. Lady Blake's guests enjoyed themselves immensely, partaking of the generous hospitality which was a characteristic feature of the function.

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## The China Mail.

HONGKONG, THURSDAY, JUNE 30, 1904.

## EDITORIAL COMMENT.

Continental opinion has a change of veered round on the OPINION. subject of the Japanese. This result is due to Kin-chau, German and Austrian newspapers attached little importance to Japanese naval successes and even accepted Russia's feeble explanation ('luring them on') of the crossing of the Yalu, but when Russia says that the same thing has happened again, even the continental mind cannot accept the renewed explanation of a mere demonstrative defence and a strategic retirement towards Port Arthur. Russia is learning rapidly. At first the Japanese were regarded as venacious little monkeys who were to be brushed aside by a mailed fist. Then they were to receive a punishment worthy of the great nation they had insulted. Hence, we were assured by General Kuropatkin, would be signed in Tokyo in July. Now it seems that Harbin is more likely to be the seat of the final scenes. We are still sure that Port Arthur is impregnable.

The rearmament of Austria-Hungary now seems a matter of time. The Austrian Delegation at the Hague has agreed to vote the money asked for by the Government and the commendable organisation of the army and navy will soon be undertaken. The budget of the Ministry of Marine, as well as the extraordinary credits amounting to six or seven million kronen desired for the navy, are expected to be granted. Some correspondents insisted that the time had absolutely arrived for the increased development of the fleet and the weight of their arguments soon convinced the other delegates who were antagonistic to the enormous expenditure proposed.

Admiral Spinn, call the naval officers in the country, will be delighted with the decision, for he has, as Commander in Chief, been agitating for many years for a display of progressiveness in connection with the fleet. The present battleships and torpedo vessels of Austria are a long way behind the standard necessary in a modern navy, and the Admiral has never turned a blind eye to that fact. He has always struck out straight from the shoulder for a substantial grant to bring about a transformation and now that he has it he is hopeful of doing something early.

In a year and a half, he said during a speech, 'we shall have the same number of battle-ships as we had in 1870, but without the new credits we should have had to wait for eleven years for the reconstruction of the fleet. It is also necessary to protect the harbour and fortress of Pola, for the Russo-Japanese War has proved the dangers to which a daring attack of the enemy can expose vessels anchored in an incompletely protected port. As regards submarines, the Government intends to build one for the present, and only to continue their construction if the tests prove satisfactory. In the case of emergency Austria does not desire to be caught napping, and she will not be if her programme is carried out in its entirety. In making demands for such a large vote the Government had, the Minister for War declared, confined itself to what was strictly necessary, but no Minister of War could say whether in the near future any further demands might not have to be made. The Minister characterised as absolutely without foundation the assertion that the Government wished to take public opinion by surprise, and declared that the real motive of the alleged surprise was the war in the Far East, which had demonstrated the dangers to which a State was exposed if it was not prepared in time for all eventualities. Austria has done well to realise so early the danger of relying upon peace to bring security. Peace, without arms to enforce its observance, is liable to be converted into turmoil at any moment. Many unexpected acts have played havoc with peaceful nations into deadly conflicts, and Austria is now determined to be ready for anything like that should happen in her part of the world.'

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